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SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 11, 2017

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Julio from Save-A-Bull. Photo by Tangerine House Of Design, Edina

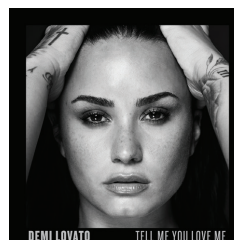
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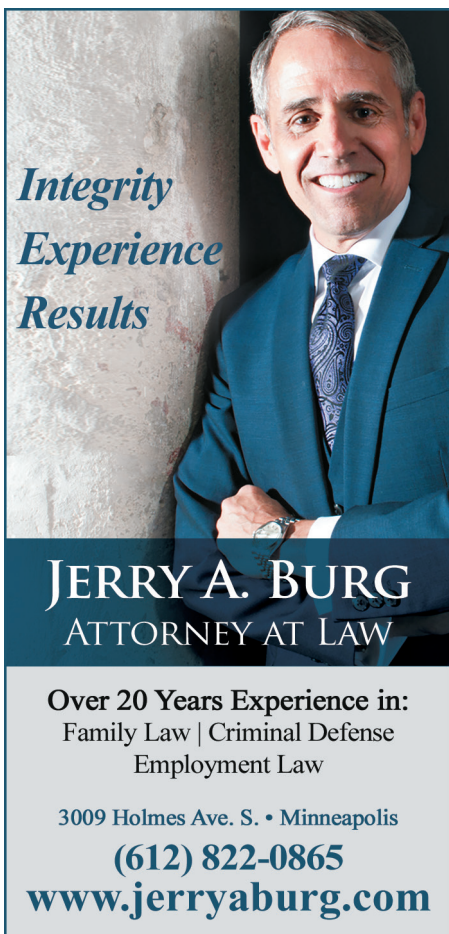
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# Co-Dependents

I wake up to panting in my ear. Panting near my feet. Panting on the other side of the bed. Grendel, my 11-year-old Glen of Imaal Terrier, started panting in the middle of the night almost a year ago. It used to be accompanied by having to go eat grass outside as soon as he could, but now he takes Pepcid in the morning and night, just like many seniors do. Still, the panting. We go out into the kitchen and he has some water. I drag my phone and blanket to the sofa sectional and he goes between the other wing of the sofa to the rug to the sofa to the rug for the rest of the night. And then pants in my ear some more at some point. Or at least he did this morning. As someone who lives a half a block from a light rail station in St. Paul, I can handle automated voices, dingy electronic bells, loud talking and yelling, trains and tracks, and all sorts of things. But a terrier breathing loudly wakes me up.

Because we're each other's other. We are attuned to how each other is doing. He's not my blood, but he's the other heartbeat in my life. My life is quiet and I can hear his stomach making noises across the cavernous room while I'm working. He smacks his lips in bed, which can be so annoying that I want to give him away to the first taker. And then he curls up in my armpit so I lose feeling in my fingertips and I don't want to move for fear that he'll toddle his furry self away from me. So, really, I even adore his quirks. I crave his closeness and warmth. I love his smelly breath and the side-eye he gives me when I move even the slightest bit.

After all the panting this morning, it turned out that he had a bad stomach, which resulted in a race to get outside and a bath right when we got back into my loft. This is rare, and so is the "bland diet" meal of chicken and rice that I just made for him as a hopeful antidote for his messy morning. He scarfed it and is now snoozing on the sofa again, damp and tired from his eventful existence. And I wouldn't have it any other way. As someone who's never had a dog or pet, I've never lived through a life cycle of another being that's cruelly built to last so few years. Every day is a learning process. Every night that results in that fuzzy face panting at me in the morning is another one that I give thanks for, that he's still here and making my life about more than just me.

I depend on him and he depends on me. We are both codependent and each other's dependent. Co-dependents. The disrupted sleep is nothing compared to what he's given me.

Many people in this community know this co-dependency. So many seek it as rescue volunteers and foster homeowners, like Lorelei and Ian in our story about Save-A-Bull. Whether a foster or owner or parent to a pet, I laud you for adding heartbeats to your household. And I hope you find our vet section and pet marketplace in this issue useful (or entertaining) as well.

With yawns and thanks,  
Andy ■



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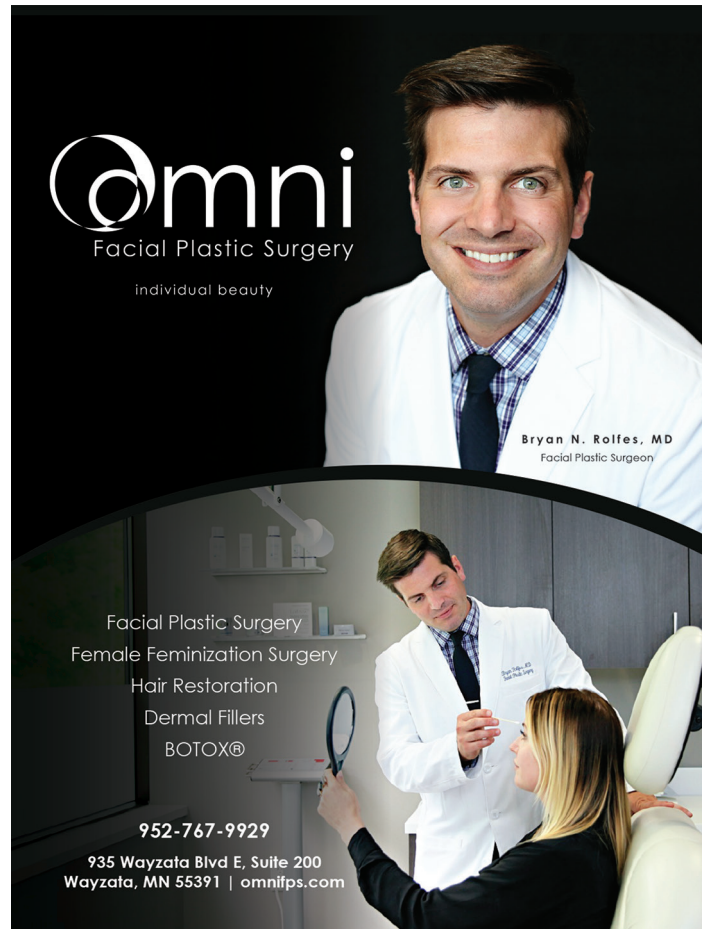
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# That Old Question of Apples and Trees

Once again, one of iconic pastor Billy Graham's progeny is in the news. While son Franklin keeps up his unrelenting background drumbeat of anti-GLBT rhetoric, Graham's daughter, Franklin's sister, Anne Graham Lotz, pushes her own assumptions as gospel.

Speaking of the 16th anniversary of 9/11, Lotz announced that God has abandoned Americans because of their attitude towards transgender rights, evolution, and the separation of church and state.

Whence comes the siblings' absolute certainty? Had Anne—or Franklin—even heard the word “transgender” by September 11, 2001? The nature/nurture question has still not been determined, but my opinion is that in the Graham household, like that of the Phelps clan of the Westboro Baptist Church, feelings of if not self-righteousness, then self-rightness, were inculcated directly through dominant, patriarchal figures, Billy in the former, Fred Sr. in the latter.

I never met Fred, but I did encounter Billy back in 1952 in Jackson, MS, at Tiger Stadium. Tall and commanding, Graham towered above the throng sweltering in the August heat. “I know I’m saved,” he boomed, “Do you?” Well, no. So I, along with hundreds of others, went forward.

Afterward, my cousin Jim and I found ourselves separated from our parents. On the roadside, a stranger stopped and offered us a “ride.” I pulled my cousin back toward the arena, where the only folks visible were the Reverend Graham and an assistant. I was awed, but approached and, looking up at Graham, asked if he would sign an autograph. He glanced down briefly and replied, “If I gave you one I’d have to give one to everybody.”

There was no “Where are your parents?” “Can I help you?” I was nonplussed as the scales fell from my eyes. I had undergone perhaps the briefest conversion in history, receiving an inoculation immunizing me through the following 65 years.

There’s more to Graham’s three weeks in Jackson, some good, some examples of “situational religious ethics;” more of that, later. The long lesson has been that while a healthy ego and self-confidence are necessary to thrive and progress, rigid certainty about anything, from the shape of our planet to being privy to the mind of the Creator, allowing no room for consideration or change, has caused untold misery and suffering. ■

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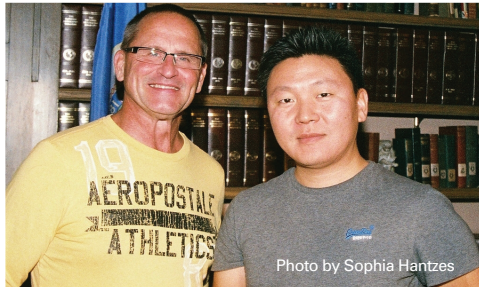
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*Cher and Cher Alike – A Drag Extravaganza.* Photo by Ev36 Photography, ev36.com

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Dramatist Jonas Hassen Khemiri is revered in Sweden and his play was recently read publicly at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. It addresses just how confusing, beguiling, and downright disordering the manic mixed messages can be out there about how to make money, survive, prosper, and profit.

Pillsbury House production director Noel Raymond said, “I was attracted to *Almost Equal To* for many reasons: it is completely unlike anything I have read or seen before; it is hilarious but with a powerful emotional undercurrent; it is wildly theatrical—which is super fun to work on—and it is superbly written. And the cast we were lucky enough to get is amazing. The story artfully shows us, through characters not too far from ourselves, the human consequences of economic systems built on capitalism.”

## CHER AND CHER ALIKE – A DRAG EXTRAVAGANZA

Friday, Oct. 13 to benefit The Aliveness Project  
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Mark Hooker made his mark (no pun intended) as one of the Twin Cities’ truly great drag entertainers and for establishing the outstanding Brazen Theater Company which was renown for its first-rate camp and drag aesthetic. Hooker is returning to the Minnesota stage at Bryant Lake Bowl for two benefit performances for two important and worthy local GLBT organizations: Gadfly Theater, the area’s finest theater with a primarily GLBT focus and The Aliveness Project, which has been absolutely indispensable for its assistance for those with HIV/AIDS.

Hooker himself is an HIV/AIDS survivor since 1985. He is also known for his work on soap operas, as well as being an accomplished stage director. Hooker soon turns 60 and is thrilled to be “lip synching for The

Aliveness Project and Gadfly Theatre.” And he points out that “walking in high heels with peripheral neuropathy is not for sissies!”

## EYEWITNESS VIEWS: MAKING HISTORY IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY EUROPE

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The Minneapolis Institute of Art is presenting and inspired exhibit that relates the back stories behind various 18th-century European paintings. There is a tendency for most of us to rightly “ooh” and “ahh” when we see a gorgeous painting from the past. And there’s nothing wrong with that! However, viewing such a painting and knowing the story behind it makes for a richer and more textured experience of the viewing. Typically, we don’t see such paintings as actually being visceral depictions of contemporary events of their time.

To make the point: if we see a photo of Martin Luther King, Jr. in front of the multitudes in Washington, or the Twin Towers on 9/11, or Pope Francis celebrating mass, we know immediately what the situation was for which the photo was so important. In the time before photography, paintings served a similar function.

Over the past few years we have become increasingly conscious of how much media images can deceive. At Mia, *Eyewitness Views: Making History in Eighteenth-Century Europe* has a shrewdly uncanny way of connecting this to the broad scope of history. Power structures manipulated images in past centuries as well. You’ll see how painter Antonio Joli depicts a revolt of the poor during a famine in stark contrast to the intimidating gated complex overlooking the conflict. Hubert Robert’s *The Fire at the Opera House of the Palais-Royal* was an event that would have been well-known to many at the time.

Throughout the exhibit within the painting selections there is a vividly delineated vision of class differences in relation to the authoritative spectacle of staged reenactments: in Venice we witness third-hand, so to speak, embassies there by the Vatican, not to mention the celebration of elite marriage in France. Moreover, the power of nature itself amazes with lava-driven imagery of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, in contrast to various human-bound civic and religious rituals. You’ll see how manipulating and selecting imagery influences and reinforces how we are meant to feel



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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

This exhibition was organized by the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and the Cleveland Museum of Art, and is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

**Images:** Luca Carlevarius (Italian, 1663–1730); *Regatta on the Grand Canal in Honor of Frederick IV, King of Denmark* (detail), 1711. The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles



by the powers with the puppet strings. This may be a modest exhibit but it has numinous insights as you take it in. Not to be missed!

## HOW TO USE A KNIFE

Through Oct. 15

Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S 4th St., Minneapolis

(612) 338-6131

[www.mixedblood.com](http://www.mixedblood.com)

Mixed Blood Theatre can be relied on for presenting recent plays that tap into current socio-political issues. With *How to Use a Knife* by Will Snider, a restaurant kitchen is where interpersonal conflicts play out, reflecting cultural differences. Guatemalan line cooks and an East African dishwasher are among the various characters in this comedic examination of machismo. Artistic Director Jack Reuler says the play “is definitive Mixed Blood: hilarious until it’s not, propelled by catalytic cultural collisions, simultaneously political and theatrical, timely in America and in our own Cedar-Riverside neighborhood, multi-lingual, and 90 intermission-less minutes.”

## ROMEO AND JULIET

Through Oct. 28

Guthrie Theater, 818 S 2nd St., Minneapolis

(612) 377-2224

[www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org)

William Shakespeare’s tragedy about two young star-crossed lovers who loved despite the consent of their feuding families in “Fair Verona” looms as what is most likely the most popular play ever. It was written and performed at the very end of the 16th century and expresses profound concern over the ferocity and dire consequences of social divisions. Though there never has been a time since its inception that *Romeo and Juliet* hasn’t been widely produced, it does seem especially timely for today’s chaotically angry atmosphere. The Guthrie Theater now presents a revival directed by Joseph Haj as part of its ongoing commitment to major classic plays.

Although the characters, Romeo and Juliet, are heterosexual lovers, their tragedy has been perennially beloved by same-sex lovers because of the forbidden aspect of their relationship—something gays and lesbians can surely relate to. The drama is also a quintessential indictment against the practice of arranged marriage, something common to Western culture right up until the late 19th century and still common in some places. The very idea that you should marry for love, rather than position or security, is taken for granted as a given now. But love and marriage are comparatively recent developments.



Taiko Tuesdays. Photo by Rich Ryan

*Romeo and Juliet* deserves incalculable credit for using the power of the word and the power of the stage to forward that.

## TAIKO TUESDAYS

Oct. 17: North Garden Theater, 929 7th St. W St. Paul

Nov. 21, Dec. 5: Gremlin Theater, 550 Vandalia St., St. Paul

[www.taikoartsmidwest.org](http://www.taikoartsmidwest.org)

From warfare to ritual to general ambience, the percussive drumming tradition of Japan has marked its signature as a major Asian performing art form. Just think, here and now in 2017 we can experience an art form that began to take shape some 1500 years ago. Note that Korean and Chinese influences were a part of the alchemy. This tradition has been given an exhilarating ongoing platform by Taiko Arts Midwest. On various Tuesday evenings until early December, Taiko concerts can be enjoyed by the public free of charge.

## TAKING STEPS

Through Oct. 1

Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave.

Minneapolis

(612) 333-3010

[www.theaterintheround.org](http://www.theaterintheround.org)

Theater in the Round Players is launching their 66th season. No Minneapolis theater has been around as long as they have. The longevity can be largely attributed to continually staging plays that are classic or those of playwrights with a proven track record, with the Twin Cities exceptional acting pool. For instance, their current production is written by a man who is sometimes considered to be the UK’s Neil Simon, as well as one of the most skilled comedy-farce writers to ever

deal with the messy intertwining of love and sex.

Director Dann Peterson shares, “Alan Ayckbourn specifically intended *Taking Steps* to be performed in the round. In fact, he defies its success on a proscenium stage. He also considers this play to be his only true full-length farce. Most farces rely on doors with surprises lurking behind each door. Ayckbourn has substituted floors for doors—the attic, the master bedroom, the living room, and the linking staircases of a house overlaid on each other in a single space. We are able to see action happening on various ‘floors’ at the same time. This works only if the audience is able to see the entire floor of the performance space. If you can’t see the floor, you’re losing the playwright’s intention and the visual humor of the characters on different floors standing right next to each other.”

Peterson continues, “On a proscenium stage the background is the key visual element; in theatre-in-the-round the key visual element is the floor. Ayckbourn develops interesting—often fascinating—characters and places them in complicated, often seemingly improbable, situations which leads to great comedy and intriguing plot lines. The central issues of *Taking Steps* are embodied more in character than in situations. This is a play in which the people are forever ‘taking steps’ to change their lives, yet most wind up in much the same place as they started. These people are perpetually in each other’s way without ever being able to communicate; even when they are on the same floor they have difficulty making real contact.” ■





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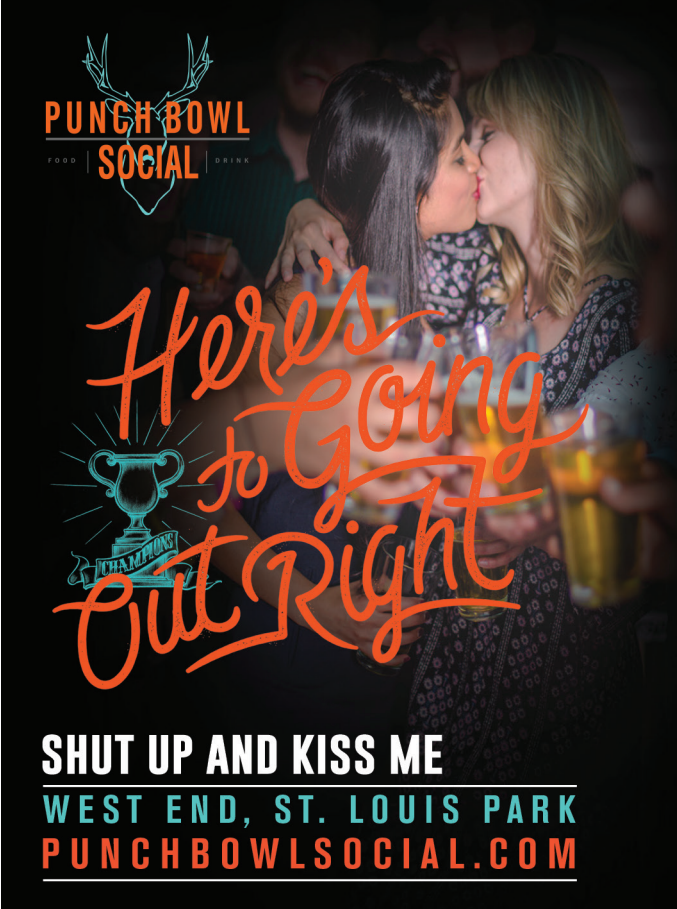
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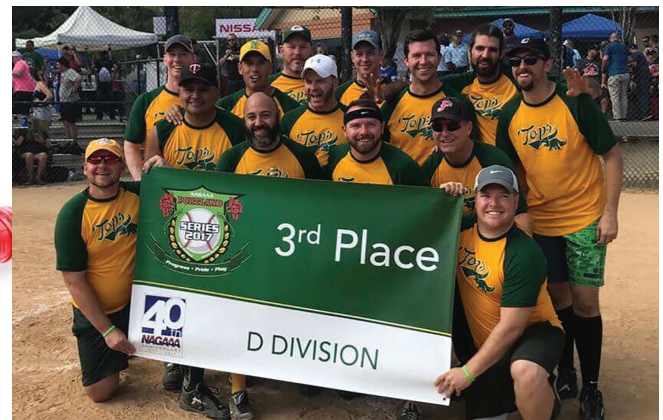
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# Twin Cities Takes Home Three Trophies in Gay Softball World Series



(Clockwise) Twin Cities Steel. Photo by Scott Richardson; Minnesota Freak. Photo by Scott Richardson; Triceratops. Photo courtesy of TCGSL; Photo by azizhijaras/Bigstock.

Eight teams from the Twin Cities Good-time Softball League (TCGSL) competed in the Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) held Sept. 5-9 in Portland, Oregon with three teams bringing home trophies. The Twin Cities Steel were crowned champions in the C division becoming the first TCGSL team to earn that honor in 20 years. The Steel defeated the Austin Fusion in the championship game in dramatic fashion with a walk-off hit to drive in the winning run in extra innings. The Twin Cities Freak took home second place in the B division improving on its fourth place finish from last year. The Twin Cities Triceratops won third place in the D division in its first-ever trip to the GSWS. "This was an amaz-

ing year for the TCGSL," said Greg Fedio, commissioner of the league. Fedio continued, "Never in a million years did I think our league would bring home three trophies in one year. Plus, the TCGSL is known for its spirit and camaraderie. To see all of the other Minnesota teams at the World Series lining up outside the exit of the dugout after the Steel won first place was truly special. I couldn't be more proud of our players and this league."

The Gay Softball World Series is an annual event held by the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) which started in 1977. This year's tournament saw 185 teams compete in four open divisions and two masters (for players 50 years and

older) divisions. The Twin Cities last hosted the event in 2012. NAGAAA has 46 member associations in the U.S. and Canada with over 13,000 players competing this year. The TCGSL is the third largest gay softball league in the world with just under 600 players. The league was founded by a group of gay men in 1979 who challenged the Minneapolis Police Department softball team to a game. The TCGSL was also named the Best Softball League in Minnesota by WCCO earlier this year. The league is open to everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and welcomes players of all skill levels. ■





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# THE BULLS ARE BACK IN TOWN

**By Kassidy Tarala**  
**Photos by Tangerine House Of Design, Edina**





Save-a-Bull is a nonprofit organization assisting pit bulls and pit mixes in a process of rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming. The dogs are cared for by volunteers in foster homes until they find their forever families. Once the dogs are rescued, they receive the proper vaccinations and medical treatments as well as temperament testing, health screening, and microchipping. Because the staff is entirely unpaid, Save-a-Bull holds several events and fundraisers to get these furry critters the help that they need.

Save-a-Bull helps any bully breed or bully mix because they face the most discrimination based on their appearances. In U.S. shelters, more than 700,000 bullies are euthanized each year because the way they look frequently turns people away from adopting them. Although Save-a-Bull focuses on rescuing bullies and bully mixes, they do not discriminate and accept any and all dogs that are in need of a loving home.

"We have a careful and thoughtful intake and adoption process!" says Save-a-Bull foster Lorelei Noire. "Since we are foster-based we can only take in as many dogs as we have homes open. The intake team finds dogs that match our available open foster homes from either animal control or owner surrenders. The majority of our adult dogs are from local sources since we prefer fosters have a chance to meet the dog before placing them together. We also intake puppies from our rescue partners out of state. Thanks to spay/neuter efforts and 'adopt don't shop' campaigns, unwanted puppies aren't as common in the Twin Cities as one would think."

Once the dogs are in foster care, they receive spay/neutering, vetting, training, and love while learning to live in a home with a family. Potential adopters fill out applications online, which include resident animal vetting status and homeowners or renters

insurance that covers bullies and personal preferences. Once an applicant is approved, they can meet with the foster for a home visit and meet and greet. "We want to make sure that it is a good fit. I love that fosters are part of the decision. They know the dog best and are given the opportunity to work with the adoptions team on finding the perfect home for the dog," Noire says.

Following the adoption of a dog, Save-a-Bull sends a follow-up team that connects with the adopter every few months throughout the first year, and then yearly after that to see how they are doing and if any assistance is needed. Once someone adopts a bully through Save-a-Bull, they become a member of the Save-a-Bull alumni forever, so resources are always available to the adopter and their new furry friend.

Because bullies are so often overlooked or stereotyped as mean, aggressive dogs, they seldom receive the homes that they so badly need. Save-a-Bull is trying to undo this slanted way of thinking with workshops and educational resources for people to learn more about the bully community. "We highly recommend and actively promote obedience training, regardless of breed, that includes positive reinforcement. Find a trainer that is bully savvy and understands the breeds. We even offer a training reimbursement to our adopter to encourage training—training is most important! In general, anybody who adopts a bully should be an advocate for the breed. Be ready to have conversations about breaking the myths and stereotypes created by the media. Educate yourself on the facts. We write and source a lot of articles on our website that are a good resource for people who want to learn more about pit bulls. We also have a dog bite prevention workshop that we take into local schools to help teach kids about dogs—all dogs—and how to properly interact with them," says Noire.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 ➔





Noire and her partner, Ian Noire, have always been passionate about dogs and dog rescue. They knew all of the stereotypes and misconceptions surrounding the bully community, but they quickly fell in love with bullies once they started rescuing. “After fostering for a while, Ian joined the board of Save-a-Bull. Ian took on more responsibility and is now the vetting manager,” Noire explains. “As the organization grew, the current foster manager needed some help so I started as the foster coordinator and then shifted to the foster manager role. Even though we both have roles within the rescue, we do not feel any more important than volunteers or fosters. Nothing in Save-a-Bull would be possible if it weren’t for the people that open their homes and hearts to dogs in need,” says Noire.

Currently, the Noires are fostering two dogs through Save-a-Bully. Ditto is a nine-month-old pit bull and Oscar de la Hoya is a six-year-old Boston Terrier.

“Ditto came into rescue after being bitten through the spine by another dog when she was seven weeks old. Found as a stray, her spine was surgically realigned and she was on very strict kennel rest for six weeks. Nerve damage was done to her spine that caused ataxia (a loose jiggle back end) but did not affect her bodily functions. Her left rear leg was mangled and the hip joint was out of the socket. When she was young we opted not to amputate the leg since she used it like a kickstand to potty and use the stairs. At six months old a wheelchair was purchased for her. Even though she could get around without it at home, walks outside of the home and public outing were too much for her to manage. At eight months old the decision was made to remove the left rear leg. Now she is a three-legged champion. Don’t tell her she is missing a leg or has any spine damage...she runs faster and plays harder than most dogs and rarely uses her chair. We only use the chair now once she is worn out and hits her stump on the ground. She loves all people and dogs. A total lover—a typical pittie that is all about wiggle-butt and huge smiles,” Noire says.

Unlike Ditto, Oscar de la Hoya came from a family that could no longer care for him due to medical reasons. Noire tells this fighter’s story, “Oscar came into rescue this August. He was owner-surrendered

for medical reasons. He is named after a human boxer since he has cauliflower ears from repetitive ear hematomas and infections. Both eyes have minor eye ulcers. His biggest challenge is that he tested heart worm-positive. He started heart worm treatment and will be in rescue for at least four to six months while he completes heart worm treatment. He is amazing! Loves to cuddle with humans and the other animals in the home, sniff in the yard, and learn new tricks. Quiet, super smart, and very social,” she says.

Despite the love and joy that dogs like Ditto and Oscar bring to families, approximately 75 percent of municipal shelters euthanize pit bulls immediately upon intake, which means they never have a chance of being adopted. Studies have shown that up to one million pit bulls are euthanized each year, which is about 2,800 every day. Other estimates are up to double that number. A recent study by the American People organization reported a 93 percent euthanasia rate for pit bulls and only one in 600 finds a forever home.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

Save-a-Bull encourages everyone to get involved in any way that they can. Whether that be volunteering, fostering, donating, adopting, or advocating for the adoption of bully breeds and mixes, anything helps. Volunteers shared their reasons for working with Save-a-Bull and advocating for bullies in relation to the GLBT community.

## **RICARDO LOPEZ**

As a gay Latino, I feel a kinship with pitbulls and other bully breeds that are often maligned in the press and demonized as some ‘other.’ Pit bulls are dogs, just like any other. LGBT individuals are humans, as any other human. The struggle for equality has resulted in great strides for the LGBT community, but without advocates who have shared stories to humanize our community, I doubt we would have secured to right to marry or serve openly in the military. Dogs can’t advocate for themselves, which is why I do. I hope one day we won’t have to prove that our dogs are dogs like any other, deserving of love and companionship.



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Lorelei and Ian Noire with their friends, Oscar de la Hoya and Ditto.



## MANUEL SOLANO, JR.

When I moved to Minnesota, I had just finished caring for my father for the last five years of his life. Instead of returning to the work force, I decided to take early retirement. Shortly after moving to Minnesota with my three dogs, my dalmatian, who was 13 years old, became sick and I made the difficult decision to say goodbye. For the next six months, I felt a void in my life. Even though I still had my golden retriever and chocolate lab mix, I felt I needed to do something more with my life in my retirement years.

My neighbor posted on Facebook that she was connected with a rescue group Save-a-Bull and there were puppies arriving and they needed temporary foster until they were ready to be adopted. I said to myself, 'Oh this is easy, the pup will come here and be gone in a few weeks!' Well, my first foster pup stayed with me for eight months. I thought about foster failing and keeping the pup, but I told myself that if I don't get her adopted, I won't be able to bring more foster pups into my home that need my help. My foster pup was finally adopted by a family who was looking for an older pup that was trained, housebroken, and ready to be with another pup. She was exactly what they were looking for and she also hit it off with the resident pup, so my little girl went off to her new home.

Since then, I've had many more pups that have been adopted. I don't get attached to them but I give them as much love as I can until their new family adopts them. The smile on the families' faces when the adoption is complete is what keeps me going. I've been very lucky that a few of my pups have been adopted by friends, so I get to see my foster pups, and they even come stay with me for short vacations. It's a win-win situation for everyone. I sometimes wonder if I missed my calling when I was in college. I should have ventured into a career having to do with dogs because I love them so much. The only tie I have back to my community is that many of my LGBTQ friends have adopted pups through me or already have pit bulls as pets. We all know that education is important to get the word out that these pups are not dangerous. So each time I

get a new foster the word gets out fast. Each successful adoption in our community continues to keep spreading the word to help get more pups adopted through our rescue group.

## ANNA MEYER AND ROXANNE ANDERSON

I met a pit bull, fell in love, and it was over for me; it was because of her that I adopted my first pittie, Peach. She volunteered with young people at my job working with youth experiencing homelessness for years and provided love, comfort, and education for many youth and me before her cancer. My partner and I continued to adopt rescued pit bulls because we wanted to give dogs that get a bad rap a good home. Pit bulls are often portrayed as an aggressive breed when they were historically a nanny family dog. A dog of any breed can be aggressive; it's about the particular dog and about how that dog is treated. Pit bulls deserve good and loving homes with people who can stand long walks, cuddling, and also stubbornness, because pit bulls tend to be hard-headed lovers who need exercise. We have two pitties—Lilah (aka Miss Delilah) from Save-a-Bull and Jazper from the Animal Humane Society (we knew him before then but officially adopted him through AHS)—and they are a goofy inseparable pair and part of our family.


## JESSICA SUNDBERG

I have been fostering on and off for Save-a-Bull for 7 years. Though animals have always been my first love, I have a special spot in my heart for bully breeds. I have felt that being a part of the pittie rescue community, it is my job to educate those that may only have ideas based on media, rather than fact. The truth is, bully breed dogs often get a bad rap. There was once a time when being gay was a mental illness, not simply a part of our genome. The rainbow community fought long and hard to change that. Well, here I am, fighting for the dogs that get a bad rap based on their breed, not who they are at heart. ■

See more photos online at [LavenderMagazine.com](http://LavenderMagazine.com)



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# 2017 Pet Marketplace Guide

By Kassidy Tarala



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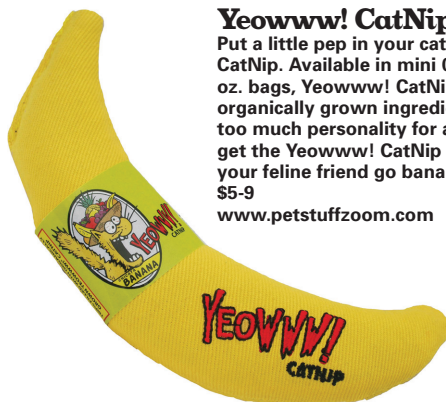
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\$24  
www.thatpetplace.com



### Super Snouts Buba Chew

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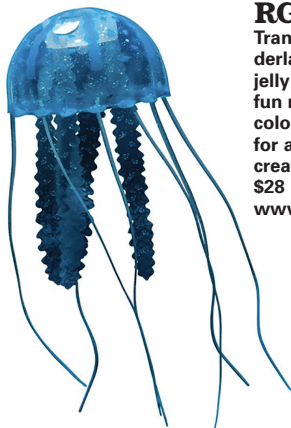
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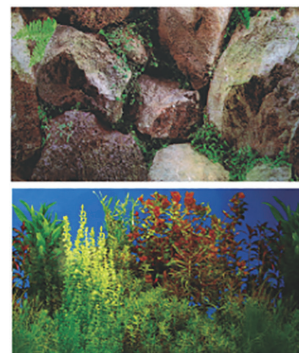
\$28  
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# VET Q & A

By **Dr. Susan Lowum, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ABVP (Canine and Feline Practice)**  
and **Dr. Kristi Flynn, DVM**

Lavender runs a Vet Q&A in our Pet Issues as well as online. If you have a question you'd like answered by a veterinarian, email it to [editor@lavendermagazine.com](mailto:editor@lavendermagazine.com).

## **With the recent natural disasters in the news, what would I need to consider if I need to evacuate my home with my pet(s)?**

**Dr. Susan Lowum:** Be prepared!

1. **Pet Identification:** In case you get separated from your pet, make sure you have a registered microchip placed in each pet and your contact information is up to date. This is the best way to help assure you are reunited with your pet. You should also have collars with identification tags including the pet's name, address, and your phone number. Also make sure you have access to current photos of all your pets in case you need to post a missing pet notification.
2. **Have pet carriers ready:** Make sure to have an individual pet carrier ready to go for each pet. Write your pet's name, your name and contact information on each carrier. Train your pet to go in the carrier by using treats, so when the time comes they will be willing to quickly go into the carrier without having to chase them around the house.
3. **Ready to go bag:** Pack the "to go" bag ahead of time including leashes, water bowls, food in airtight and waterproof containers, litterbox and litter for cats, plastic bags for poop, paper towels, cloth towels or blankets, and any critical medications they are currently taking. It is also helpful to have medical records, including vaccination status and boarding instructions (such as feeding amounts and timing, medications, and any known allergies or medical issues).
4. **Make a plan for housing your pets:** Contact family and friends, shelters or pet-friendly hotels to have a plan for sheltering your pets.

## **What should I keep in mind if I come across an animal that isn't mine but I'm considering rescuing?**

**Dr. Susan Lowum:** First of all, be very careful in approaching the pet. The pet is likely very scared and may bite out of fear. Offer treats and approach slowly.

Try in every way possible to find the owners of the pet—including bringing pet to your local veterinary clinic to have the pet scanned for a microchip, contacting local animal shelters and Animal Care and Control centers, contacting neighborhood social media contacts, Craig's list, and posting flyers around the neighborhood. If you can't determine the owner, bring the pet to your veterinarian for a thorough examination and preventive care prior to introducing the pet to any current pets.

## **How does extreme weather affect pets?**

**Dr. Susan Lowum:** Extreme weather may affect pets similarly to people, but in many instances the effects may be even more pronounced. Pets are very comfortable with routine and any change may be very difficult for them. For example, thunderstorms, wind, and lightning may cause extreme anxiety for pets. Keeping them in a safe, secure place where noise and light are minimized will often help. Extreme heat is also a problem for our fur-coated friends. They can overheat easily, which may result in heat stroke and even death. Try to keep them cool if at all possible.

## **How can I prepare my pets for changes in their home life (kids going back to school, new work schedules, a new partner)?**

**Dr. Kristi Flynn:** Fortunately many pets take change in stride. For these pets, keeping the basics consistent can be enough. Try to keep the amount of time between feedings the same. For dogs, it is helpful to keep the number of hours between going out routine and give a food reward for eliminating outside to encourage the behavior. For cats it is important to keep the litterboxes clean and accessible. Both dogs and cats benefit from things they normally enjoy during times of stress. Be sure to make time for daily play and exercise as well as good old

fashioned belly rubs which positively impact our pets and us when change is occurring in our lives.

## **What is the leading health concern for dogs at this time? Cats? And how is this concern to be addressed?**

**Dr. Kristi Flynn:** Obesity is the leading health concern for dogs and cats. In the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention's 2016 survey, 53.9% of dogs and 58.9% of cats were classified as overweight. Being just 10% over-conditioned can lead to decreased lifespan and earlier onset of arthritis according to a Purina study. Pet obesity can be addressed by feeding a complete and balanced diet in the right amount. Feeding our pets brings us joy, so try using a measured portion of their meal as treats between feedings for behaviors you want them to do more of. ■

*Dr. Susan Lowum and Dr. Kristi Flynn practice at the Veterinary Medical Center at the University of Minnesota. For more information, go to [www.vmc.umn.edu](http://www.vmc.umn.edu).*



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# Q & A with National Coming Out Day Speaker Judy Shepard



Photos courtesy of the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

In 1998, Judy Shepard lost her son Matthew to a murder motivated by anti-gay hate in Laramie, Wyoming. Since then, she has become a leading voice in fighting for the rights of this community and established The Matthew Shepard Foundation to carry on her son's legacy as well as spearheaded The Matthew Shepard Act, which expanded the federal hate-crime law to include crimes based on gender and sexual orientation. She is coming to Minneapolis to speak at Quorum's National Coming Out Day luncheon on October 11, 2017. In preparation for her visit to Minneapolis, I asked her a few questions.

**As someone who is barely younger than your son, Matthew, I'm familiar with his—and your—story because he was a contemporary of mine. It's part of my own canon. How do you introduce yourself to younger people or people who've never heard of you or Matthew? In essence, how do you come out?**

It always depends on the unique circumstance of the meeting. If it is a public appearance, we know there is likely at least a minimum of knowledge and we try to fill in the blanks in our introductory remarks. If it is a social meeting, we will mention the *Laramie Project* or the documentary *Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine*—both seem to be part of pop culture now.

**What is Matthew's coming out story?**

He was a freshman in college when he came out to me over the phone. We were living in Saudi Arabia at the time so the call was in the middle of the night. He said, "Mom, I have to tell you something." I asked what would that be and he replied, "I am gay." My response was, "What took you so long to tell me?" I think he was surprised that I had any idea that he was gay but I had had a feeling that he might be gay since he was eight. He asked me not to tell his dad—he wanted to do it in person—and I agreed but told him any-

way. I knew I had to tell Dennis because he has a tendency to speak before he thinks and I didn't want him to say something that would hurt Matt out of surprise. His reaction was, "No, Matt is not gay, he just hasn't found the right girl yet." My response to him was, "No, it isn't about finding the right girl, it is about finding the right man." Dennis was taken aback I think but rejection was never an issue. Matt was Matt nothing had changed.

**What is the Matthew Shepard Foundation and who does its programs benefit?**

The Matthew Shepard Foundation is the organization Dennis and I founded shortly after Matthew's death in 1998. We received so many letters and teddy bears, so much money, and knew something had to be done on his behalf. We are almost in our 20th year of the Foundation and continue to speak around the country to youth, law enforcement, employee resource groups, and the occasional government group. We go wherever people will have us. Telling Matt's story and the stories of so many others who have lost their lives to hate is paramount to making sure it happens less and less. "Erase Hate" is our motto and I think that benefits everyone and anyone.

**How do you see coming out fitting into that mission to "Erase Hate?"**

Erasing hate is broad, but we did that intentionally. This is for LGBTQ youth, people of color, religious minorities, or anyone who has experienced discrimination. Words often turn into violence, and if we can teach one person at any event we attend that hate is learned and our natural instincts are to love, then maybe we can save a life or two in the process, as well. Coming out and being your authentic self helps, showing that anybody in the rainbow spectrum is worthy of love and just because they love differently than the "norm" doesn't mean that they deserve to be discriminated against. Authenticity over aspiration is

really something that makes a difference. Boys are taught that they have to stuff their feelings in order to be men. Girls are taught that they have to fit into a certain mold in order to be worthy of love, and that just isn't true. It's never too late to be yourself. There are people who come out in their 80s and I commend them for it!

**What words of advice do you have for handling hate? Do you have any resources you'd recommend for people whether in schools, churches, the workplace, or in their own families?**

Meet people where they are. Figure out why they have a preconceived notion of whatever is causing them to be hateful. More often than not, it's a misconception and that authenticity can help them see that we are all equal. In this political climate, it has become much more difficult, but you have to be an optimist in order to believe that our work is effective.

Check out [MatthewShepard.org](http://MatthewShepard.org). We have a lot of resources to help. ADL, GLAAD, GLSEN, and HRC also have great materials for helping erase hate. ■

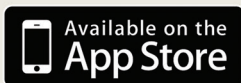
For more information about the National Coming Out Day luncheon at which Judy will be speaking, go to [www.twincitiesquorum.com](http://www.twincitiesquorum.com).







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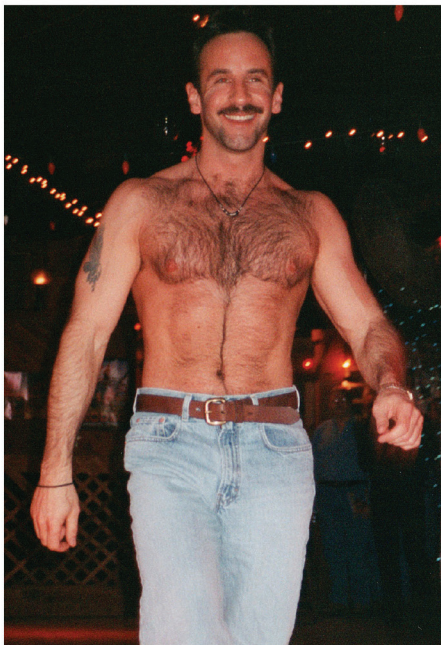
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# Images of Leather, 1996–2003

Your humble columnist has taken a lot of photos over the years. A good part of my summer has been spent bringing all my pre-2003 non-digital photos, including the photos on this page, into the digital domain. I hope you enjoy this photographic look at our community/tribe/nation as it was between 1996 and 2003. (Find more photos at [www.lavendermagazine.com](http://www.lavendermagazine.com).) ■



**Left column, from top:** 1996, Steve Kelso appearance at the Town House Bar, St. Paul; 1997, Kevin Cwayna, Mr. Minnesota Leather 1997 who became International Mr. Leather (IML) 1997, and Chuck Renslow, executive producer of IML. **Middle column, from top:** 1997, Paul Rozendaal lifts comedian Lynn Lavner at the Atons of Minneapolis 25th anniversary run; 1998, members of Ballet of the Dolls perform at the Mr. Minnesota Fantasy contest at Club Metro; 1999, salute during Pantheon of Leather to leathermen and leatherwomen who have served in the military; 2000, Venus DeMars performs at a kink party at the Town House Bar, St. Paul. **Right column, from top:** 2001, members of the Black Guard of Minneapolis; 2002, CLAW (Cleveland Leather Annual Weekend) presents a check to the Leather Archives & Museum; 2003, human ponies at the Knights of Leather Tournament run.



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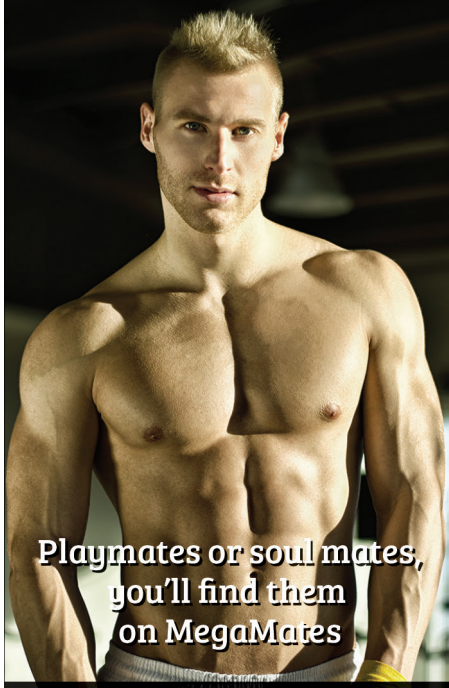
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# 2017 Mazda CX-5



The first Mazda CX-5 was a major hit!

In relative terms, the CX-5 helped raise the profile of the company by introducing a smart-sized SUV in a very competitive segment. Instead of following everyone else's trends, Mazda set their own benchmarks by combining Skyactiv engineering technology and the needs of those who live active lifestyles.

While the CX-5 hit the mark with consumers, Mazda's ambitions began to take flight. They want to seek an upwardly mobile customer. In doing so, Mazda is raising the level of quality and content in their latest products. Though they want to attract their core customer base of enthusiasts and loyalists, there is a want to take the brand further to attract those who seek a better vehicle overall.

This new strategy began with the new CX-9 SUV. It continues with this newest 2017 CX-5.

We loved the previous model for what they did for Mazda. We now wonder whether this newest version of the CX-5 will fulfill the brand's want of upward mobility while keeping its current customer base engaged.

This is a loaded premise. Hopefully, our 2017 CX-5 Grand Touring tester will help us in answering it.

One thing you will see is its next-generation of the "KODO – Soul of Motion" design language. It might appear to be an evolutionary design from the original CX-5, there is more than the eye will point out. The headlamp and tail lights units are narrower, the grille is more three-dimensional, and the lines are much sharper. The placement of the chrome trim around the side windows is tastefully done.

There is a point of contention surrounding the 19-inch alloy wheels on our Grand Touring tester. The black rim color sometimes will fool those who look at them from afar—even with the satin chrome spoke trim. We think they're cool. It brings out a personality that denotes a sportier and more adventurous look overall to the CX-5.

While Mazda worked on the exterior to meet the new design standards laid down by last year's CX-9, they followed suit inside. Not only is

the design more upmarket with higher-quality materials, they improved a lot on readability of instruments and overall operation of the infotainment system and other controls.

Bose offered up 10 speakers for very good sound. Mazda Connect drives the system through its suite of infotainment options. The primary controller is a knob on the center console, accompanied by a set of buttons for specific menu items. The one advantage Mazda has over other competitors is that you can set up as many favorite radio channels as you want—across all bands, including HD Radio broadcasts—with no limits or limitations.

The Parchment leather seats fit a lot of bodies and offer plenty of support and bolstering. They are on the firm side but can soften up gradually over time. Front seat space is exceptional, but it will be the back seats that will surprise you. There is more than enough leg and head room in the back for people over six feet tall and the doors open wide, almost to 90 degrees. A power-operated liftgate offers ease of access to an expandable cargo space. Your cargo is protected with a rear shade attachable to the liftgate. It does operate almost like a window shade, which is great for even further privacy when loading into the rear. There is up to 59.6 cubic feet of space to haul in the back.

For the new CX-5, Mazda chose to offer only one engine at this point. The 2.5-liter Skyactiv four-cylinder engine does not need a turbocharger to serve up 187 horsepower from its high-compression motor. This engine is connected to a six-speed automatic transmission and, in our tester, the i-ACTIV all-wheel drive system. Performance is quite good, with over 3,600 pounds of crossover/SUV to pull around, though we'd like some more low-end torque for better passing control. For fuel economy, we averaged 26.5 MPG.

G-Vectoring Control is part of the CX-5's traction and driving dynamics package. The idea behind this is to use the engine to assist in providing improved levels of steering, handling, and ride quality. This actually works well when road surfaces are less than ideal—during rainstorms, with snow and ice, and on anything other than smooth tarmac.



The CX-5 rides pretty well with a smooth ride, competent handling, and cornering. It should be just fine for many folks. The steering is also quite good, though putting it into Sport mode does tighten up the weight a bit. The wheel action is good with a solid turning radius overall. Brakes are superb with great pedal action and solid stops in both normal and panic situations.

It is one thing to say that this new CX-5 is safe. It is even safer than before. This sounds like an understatement, but the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety crash tested the CX-5 toward awarding it its "Top Safety Pick +" designation. Active safety features include Smart City Brake Support, radar cruise control, blind spot monitoring, rear cross-traffic alert, lane departure warning, and Lane Keep Assist.

Pricing for the new 2017 CX-5 starts at \$24,045. Our tester came with a sticker price of \$34,380.

To say that this new 2017 Mazda CX-5 is better than the previous model is quite an understatement. To say that it is a scaled-down version of the ground-breaking CX-9 would be incorrect. What the new CX-5 represents is the next step toward moving the brand upmarket, while competing in the hottest automotive segment in this country. It has one eye on products, such as the Acura RDX and Buick Envision, while still battling the Honda CR-V, Toyota RAV4, and Nissan Rogue.

But the Mazda CX-5 is its own kind of crossover/SUV. It need not be defined by class or price segment. It is for those who love living active lifestyles, but want some level of sophistication and a high level of safety built in. If you happen to fall into this type of customer, this is the vehicle for you. In fact, it has always been. It continues to be so now. ■



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# Allies

I've written before about how transgender folks (and yes, even the great Ellie Krug!) need allies, particularly those who engage in "allyship"—the action part of being an ally.

"Action" as in, "Hey dude, you just misgendered her. You should go apologize."

Frankly, I never thought I'd see the day when Republican leaders like John McCain and Lindsey Graham would stand up for transgender persons. But indeed, this is precisely what's happened in response to President Trump's now infamous tweet banning trans people from the military.

John McCain is a hero of mine, in no small part because he acted with great valor after becoming a POW during the Vietnam war. (Most may not know that McCain passed on an early release from a North Vietnamese prison because other pilots who'd been prisoner longer deserved to return home before him.)

McCain became even more of a hero when he said in late July, "There is no reason to force service members who are able to fight, train, and deploy to leave the military—regardless of their gender identity. We should all be guided by the principle that any American who wants to serve our country and is able to meet the standards should have the opportunity to do so—and should be treated as the patriots they are."

Even Lindsey Graham, not usually a fan of the GLBT community, went on record as saying, "The commander in chief has a lot of latitude here. I don't know what the policy proposal is. I don't know why he decided what he did. But I think the right thing to do here is to have a hearing so we can hear from both sides."

It's not often that an elected official from South Carolina would want to hear from a transgender person on any topic, let alone their right to serve in the military.

And then there are actual military leaders weighing in to support trans troops. The commanding admiral of the U.S. Coast Guard personally telephoned each "out" transgender Coast Guard service member to offer his support. As reported by Fox News, Admiral Paul Zukunft said, "I will not turn my back... We have made an investment in you, and you have made an investment in the Coast Guard, and I will not break faith."

James Mattis, a retired Marine Corps general and the current Secretary of Defense, has now instituted a six-month study to determine how to implement the transgender troop ban. Some say that this delay is a sign of his disagreement with the President's decision.

Shifting to non-military transgender humans in general, I was pleased by the number of reader-allies who wrote in response to my July column, "Lemonade," in which I proposed convening an event to foster better communication between the respective letters of the GLBT alphabet. Although I didn't hear from anyone with a venue or forum to host such an event, I've not given up on the idea.

I also recently spoke to a cisgender woman lawyer who had befriended a transgender female law student in another state. The lawyer took it upon herself to provide suggestions (and multiple shopping trips plus a makeover) on how the trans law student could dress and present more professionally. Even more incredibly, the lawyer arranged for the law student to practice job interviewing with several law firms. Ultimately, the law student snagged a nice legal job.

Finally, there's one last local ally that I need to recognize: Debra Thorp, an OB-GYN who's been my doctor ever since I transitioned genders in 2009.

When it comes to true allyship, Dr. Deb is hands down one of the best because of her work to create a transgender clinic at Park Nicollet's Blaisdell Avenue facility. This happened in the 2000s, when trans people were far less accepted.

To create that clinic, Dr. Deb needed to convince management that it would be alright for trans men and women to sit alongside pregnant and cisgender women in the waiting room. Even more, she ensured that clinic staff were trans-friendly and pronoun proper, no small task.

On top of that, Dr. Deb's bedside manner is off-the-charts wonderful. She never looks at the clock and is genuinely interested in what's going on in your life (in addition to what's going on between your legs).

As I've said many times, Dr. Deb's courage and persistence in protecting transgender humans have undoubtedly saved the lives of many—perhaps hundreds—of trans folks. She's been there for us at times when very few were.

Anyone looking for a recipient of an award?

Think Dr. Deb.

Thanks to everyone who has my community's collective back. I am very grateful! ■

*Ellen (Ellie) Krug is the author of Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change (2013). She speaks and trains on diversity and inclusion topics; visit [www.humaninspirationworks.com](http://www.humaninspirationworks.com) where you can also sign up for her newsletter. She welcomes your comments at [ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com](mailto:ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com).*



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### POLITICS & RIGHTS

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Delivering programs/services in the area of public policy, anti-violence, education, training and law. 310 E. 38th St., Ste. 204 Minneapolis, MN (612) 822-0127 [www.outfront.org](http://www.outfront.org)

### PRIDE

#### Twin Cities Pride

Producers of the third-largest national Pride celebration seeks sponsors, volunteers, board members. Contact us today. 2021 E. Hennepin Ave., Ste. 402-7 Minneapolis, MN 55413 (612) 255-3260 [www.tcpide.org](http://www.tcpide.org)

### RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

#### Central Lutheran Church

Exploring the promise of God for all. 333 S. 12th St. Minneapolis, MN 55404 (612) 870-4416 [www.centralmpls.org](http://www.centralmpls.org)

#### First Christian Church

Come explore, be curious, and ask questions... a place where ALL are truly welcome. 610 W. 28th St. Minneapolis, MN 55408 (612) 870-1868 [www.fccminneapolis.org](http://www.fccminneapolis.org)

#### Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

Spiritual, Loving, Relevant, Transforming. Find us on Facebook and Twitter 1900 Nicollet Ave. at Franklin Minneapolis, MN (612) 871-7400 [www.plymouth.org](http://www.plymouth.org)

#### St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

inquiring INSPIRING inclusive. Wherever you are on your faith journey, St Mark's welcomes you. 519 Oak Grove St. Minneapolis, MN (612) 870-7800 [www.ourcathedral.org](http://www.ourcathedral.org)

#### The House of Hope Presbyterian Church

A thoughtful, gracious faith community welcoming all people. Sunday Worship 10am. Child Care, Sunday School. 797 Summit Ave. St. Paul, MN (651) 227-6311 [www.hohchurch.org](http://www.hohchurch.org)

#### United Methodist Reconciling Churches

Congregations around Minnesota that intentionally welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. [www.mnrcumc.org](http://www.mnrcumc.org)

### TRAVEL

#### Bayfield and Madeline Island, Wisconsin

Explore Wisconsin's north coast via beautiful Bayfield and Madeline Island, largest of the Apostle Islands. (715) 779-3335, (715) 747-2801 [www.bayfield.org](http://www.bayfield.org), [www.madelineisland.com](http://www.madelineisland.com)

#### Visit Duluth

Lake Superior. Historic waterfront. Vibrant arts & dining. Adventure. Hotels and B&Bs. Attractions and events. 21 W. Superior St., Ste. 100 Duluth, MN (218) 722-4011, (800) 4-DULUTH [www.visitduluth.com](http://www.visitduluth.com)

### ZOO

#### International Wolf Center

Our world famous Center features daily programs, award-winning exhibits, and live ambassador wolves. 1396 Highway 169 Ely, MN 55731 218-365-4695 [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org)





# CURE

**isn't just a four letter word anymore.**

Researchers at the U of M are focusing on studies to help discover new ways to eliminate HIV from the body. Results from these studies may guide science down new paths to hopefully cure HIV one day – but the only way to get there is by your participation.

You are compensated fairly for your time.

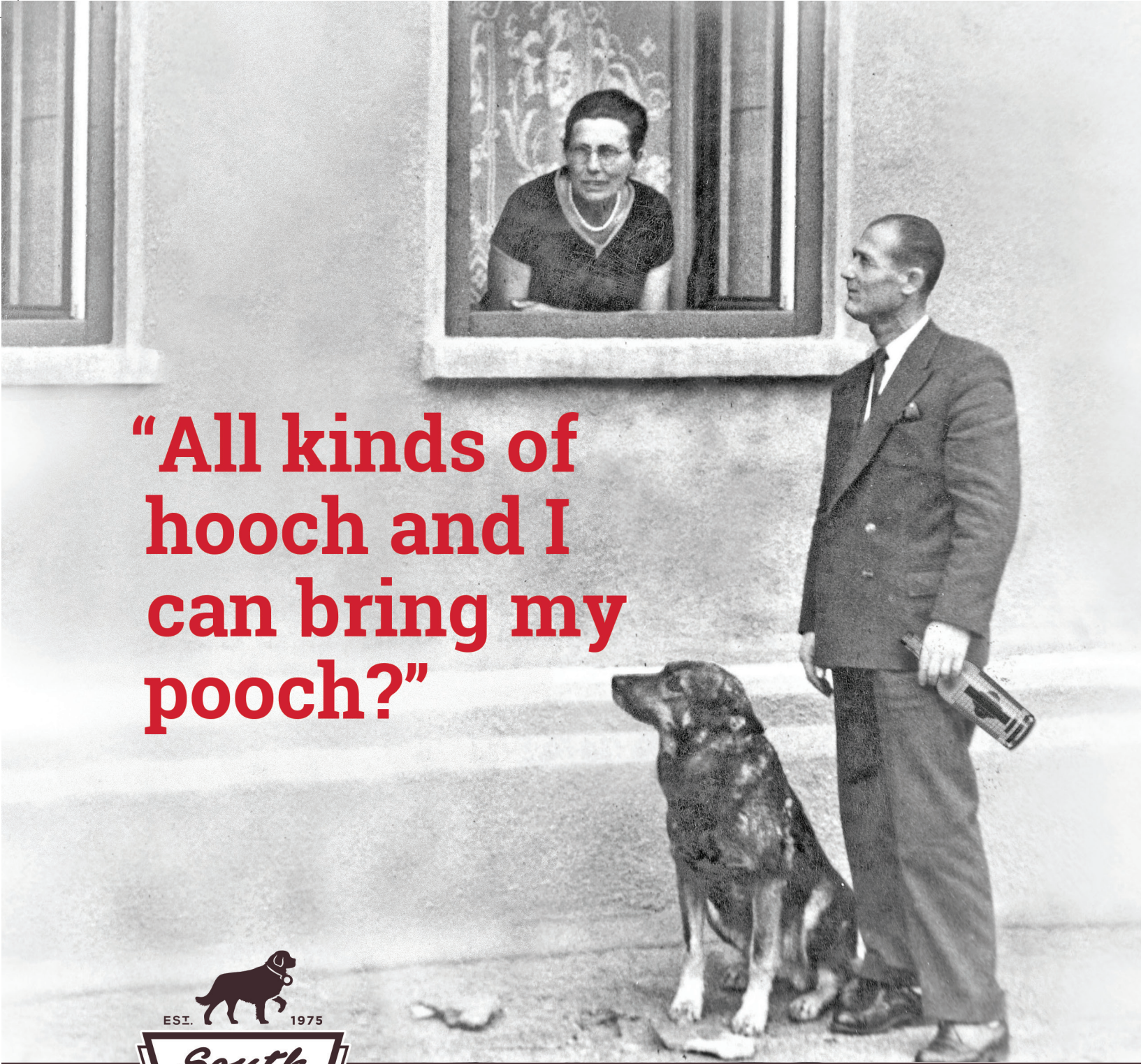
All gender identities, sexual orientations, races, and adults over 18 are welcome.

Multiple studies are enrolling right now. Call **612-626-8680** or email **tpresley@umn.edu** to see which one is right for you.



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